

or vehicles in which to change that, to change policies because it has been man-made disasters that have caused most of our problems in agriculture today. Those man-made disasters were created by government, maybe created by this Legislature, certainly created by the Congress. I'm sure that many of you have heard Senator Schmit's speech documenting how this evolution of government intervention in agriculture has caused problems for our Nebraska farmers and ranchers. So I say let us make use of vehicles that we have in this state. The big battle going on right now, of course, is should these programs be voluntary or not. That is, of course, a matter of philosophy for each of you to decide. For me, I would like to see us just use these funds. I'm afraid that if you put in a voluntary provision in this bill you are going to lose the funds that you could probably be better using in influencing legislation, promoting, developing new markets, and the things that those boards were set up to do originally. I don't know, but I get a sense that this is also a turf battle between existing farm groups and the threat of upstarts through our checkoff boards. I'm not singling out any one farm group, or any group of farm groups because they all came in front of the Ag Committee at the time of the public hearing and made speeches as to why they thought this was a bad precedent to set by giving checkoff boards the ability to influence legislation. I hate to see that happen because right now, more than ever, and it is one of the reasons I voted against raising Initiative 300 out, was the fact that we need to work together as a whole in agriculture. The biggest problem is that we've been divided. As Senator Haberman is probably going to tell you later, too often we've seen agricultural groups sort of approach the problem that agriculture is going through in a buckshot approach. Everybody is going different directions. Somewhere along the line we've got to pull all of these groups together and make them work together. I guess I'd like to see us do that irrespective of what we do with LB 60. But certainly LB 60 provides us with a vehicle in which to influence the biggest instigators of disaster in agriculture, and that is government.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. The Chair would introduce some guests in the north balcony. They are guests of Senator Cal Carsten, 30 students, juniors and seniors, from Weeping Water High School, accompanied by their instructor. If you'd all stand, we could know who you are and we can